

In re Application of LUCOVSKY et al.
Serial No. 10/021,316

REMARKS

The Office action has been carefully considered. The Office action rejected claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,983,234 to Tietjen et al. ("Tietjen"). Additionally, the Office action objected to the specification for a small informality and the abstract because the abstract as filed contained more than 150 words. Applicants have amended the specification and the abstract to obviate the objections raised in the Office action. Further, applicants have cancelled claims 1-3 and have added claims 6-37 as new. Regarding the rejections of the remaining original claims, applicants respectfully disagree.

By present amendment, claims 1-3 are cancelled, claims 4-5 remain as original, and claims 6-37 have been added as new. Applicants submit that the claims as filed were patentable over the prior art of record, and that the amendments herein are for purposes of clarifying the claims and/or for expediting allowance of the claims and not for reasons related to patentability.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the interview held (by telephone) on May 24, 2004. During the interview, the Examiner and applicants' attorney discussed the claims with respect to the prior art. The essence of applicants' position is incorporated in the remarks below.

Prior to discussing reasons why applicants believe that the claims in this application are clearly allowable in view of the teachings of the cited and applied references, a brief description of the present invention is presented.

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The present invention is directed to a system and method for using a contacts service that allows for central (e.g., over the internet) access to specific data typically stored on a server computer. See generally FIG. 4 and pages 16-17 of the specification. The data is typically stored in the form of a content document (for example, content document 422) and the information that designates access to the data is typically stored in the form of a logical contacts document (for example, roleList document 424). These logical documents are part of a schema (for example, service schema 416) for providing the information about the structure of data stored in the system. Such a system is advantageous for storing contact information and the like such that a user may obtain a person's email address or telephone number from any device capable of connecting to the internet. Since the schema provides the information about the structure of data, any device of any platform or communication protocol may access the data.

One embodiment of the present invention features a system and method for providing a schema for coordinating the access, manipulation, and retrieval of data. The schema is a function of the class of service. In this example, the schema is directed to data structures that may be used in common contacts database platforms, i.e., a contacts schema. As such, the contacts schema, which may be in the form of a content document, includes contacts-related fields arranged having defined structures.

When another computing device wishes to access or retrieve the data, it will first be determined whether the device has permission to access or retrieve the data. As mentioned above, the contacts service may include a logical contacts

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document that describes a scope of access rights, *i.e.*, which users have what type of access to which data. For example, a data owner may have read/write access to his or her own data, and may provide various types of rights to that data to other users based on their IDs, (e.g., read only to some users, read/write to others). Thus, when a user wishes to set the scope as defined in the logical contacts document, the user may send a request to manipulate the data stored in the logical contacts document to control the scope. In response to the request, at least one set of data in a logical contacts document (data that corresponds to associated identity information) may be manipulated based on the type of request. In this way, each set of data in the logical contacts document corresponds to a related field in the contacts schema and determines the scope of access rights for users according to their identity information. Note that the above description is for example and informational purposes only, and should not be used to interpret the claims, which are discussed below.

Turning to the claims, claim 4 recites in a computer network, a method comprising, receiving a request to retrieve contacts data, the request including associated identity information, reading from a data store to obtain contacts data based on the associated identity information, constructing a contacts document including at least part of the data, the document arranged according to a defined schema for contacts data, and returning the document in response to the request.

The Office action rejected claim 4 as being anticipated by Tietjen. More specifically, the Office action contends that Tietjen teaches receiving a request to retrieve contacts data, the request including associated identity information. Fig. 3,

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step 51 of Tietjen is referenced. Further, the Office action contends that Tietjen teaches reading from a data store to obtain contacts data based on the associated identity information. Fig. 3, step 53 of Tietjen is referenced. Still further, the Office action contends that Tietjen teaches constructing a contacts document including at least part of the data, the document arranged according to a defined schema for contacts data. However, regarding this recitation, no reference to any section of Tietjen is provided. Finally, the Office action contends that Tietjen teaches returning the document in response to the request. Fig. 3, steps 53-57 of Tietjen is referenced. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Tietjen is directed, generally, to a system and method for viewing and editing of values and attributes that are part of a distributed objects database that allows access rights for multiple users. As such, the method primarily cited by the Office action involves steps 51-57 as detailed in column 8, line 6 though column 9, line 54. The method of Tietjen begins at step 51 when the distributed directory is first accessed. At step 52, a target object is selected wherein the target object is chosen for manipulation, *i.e.*, writing or reading values or attributes. At step 53, the values and attributes of the target object are displayed such that a user may see what values and attributes currently reside in the targeted object. Steps 54 and 55 provide an editing means to the user such that the values and attributes of the target object may be manipulated. After changes are implemented in the target object, changes to the distributed directory are also, in turn, implemented as the target object is never removed from the distributed directory. That is, as Tietjen clearly states, those with ordinary skill in the art will readily appreciate that the

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specific operation for modifying the distributed directory will depend on the distributed directory being modified. Thus, Tietjen, is simply directed to a system for arranging objects in a hierarchical manner such that changes to particular objects in the distributed directory are kept track of by the distributed directory.

In contrast, the present invention is directed to a system and method for a contacts service that allows for central (e.g., over the internet) access to specific data typically stored on a server computer. More particularly, claim 4 recites receiving a request to retrieve contacts data. The cited portion of Tietjen (step 51 and 52 of Fig. 3) merely discloses accessing the distributed directory and selecting a target object. Accessing a distributed directory and selecting a target object is not the same as receiving a request to retrieve contacts data.

Further, claim 4 recites that the request includes associated identity information. The cited portion of Tietjen (step 51 and 52 of Fig. 3) is silent as to the inclusion of identity information. Additionally, Tietjen cannot possibly teach that the request includes associated identity information because Tietjen does not even teach a request for contacts data in the first place, as discussed above.

Further yet, claim 4 recites reading from a data store to obtain contacts data based on the associated identity information. As discussed above, Tietjen is silent as to identity-based requests. Thus, Tietjen cannot possibly teach reading from a data store to obtain contacts data based on the associated identity information.

Still further yet, claim 4 recites constructing a contacts document including at least part of the data, the document arranged according to a defined schema for contacts data. Although Tietjen does teach the use of a contacts schema, it does

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not teach using the contacts schema in a manner as recited in claim 4. That is, claim 4 recites constructing a contacts document according to a defined schema. The method taught by Tietjen does not construct any documents anywhere at any time. Rather, any changes to anything in the system of Tietjen are done so at the target object itself.

Finally, claim 4 recites returning the document in response to the request. Clearly, since Tietjen does not teach constructing a contacts document according to a defined schema as discussed above, then Tietjen cannot possibly teach returning the document in response to the request.

For at least the foregoing reasons, applicants submit that claim 4 is allowable over the prior art of record.

Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claim 5, by similar analysis, is allowable. This claim depends directly from claim 4 and consequently includes the recitations of independent claim 4. As discussed above, Tietjen fails to disclose the recitations of claim 4 and, therefore, this claim is also allowable over the prior art of record. In addition to the recitations of claim 4 noted above, this claim includes additional patentable elements.

Applicants submit that newly added claim 6-37 are also allowable for similar reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 4. The newly added claims each contain recitations that are patentable over the prior art of record.

For example, independent claim 14 recites constructing a contacts document including at least part of the data, the document arranged according to a defined schema for inbox data. As was discussed above, there is no teaching or

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even any appreciation of the recitation of constructing a document according to a schema in the manner suggested in claim 14 in the system disclosed by Tietjen.

As another example, independent claims 16 and 29 recite returning/constructing a document arranged according to a contacts schema associated with the service. Again, as was discussed above, there is no teaching or even any appreciation of the use of a schema in the manner suggested in claims 16 and 29 in the system disclosed by Tietjen. Nowhere can there be found in Tietjen a document arranged according to a defined contacts schema associated with a service such that the schema may be practiced in a common networked environment, such as the internet.

As a final example, independent claim 35 recites determining a scope of access rights based on the identity information, the scope determined according to a contacts schema. Again, as shown above, Tietjen does not teach the manner of using a contacts schema as recited in claim 37.

For at least these reasons, applicants submit that all the claims are patentable over the prior art of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in the Office action is respectfully requested and early allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

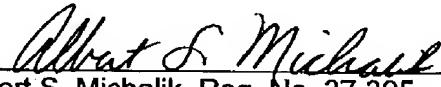
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 4-37 are patentable over the prior art of record, and that the application is in good and proper form for allowance. A favorable action on the part of the Examiner is earnestly solicited.

If in the opinion of the Examiner a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (425) 836-3030.

Respectfully submitted,

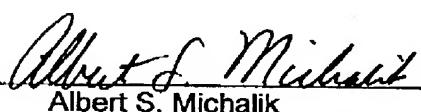

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this Amendment, along with transmittal and facsimile cover sheet, are being transmitted by facsimile to the United States Patent and Trademark Office in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.6(d) on the date shown below:

Date: July 28, 2004


Albert S. Michalik

3100 Amendment